AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

24. (Previously presented) A method of determining whether an individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* said method including the step of subjecting a biological sample obtained from said individual to nucleic acid sequence amplification using one or more PCR primers selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2 under conditions which facilitate amplification of said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, if present in said biological sample, to produce an amplification product comprising a nucleotide sequence comprising residues 681-812 of SEQ ID NO:10, wherein a presence of said amplification product indicating that said individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said method includes the step of distinguishing said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* from a porA nucleic of *Neisseria meningitidis* present in said biological sample.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is distinguished from another Neisseria species other than *Neisseria meningitidis.*

27-28. (Canceled).

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein nucleic acid sequence amplification is performed under conditions which facilitate amplification of said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* to a detectable level but which do not facilitate amplification of a porA nucleic of *N. meningitidis*.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, further including the step of using

one or more oligonucleotide probes for detecting said amplification product by probe hybridization, wherein the probe comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

32-33. (Canceled).

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein detection of said amplification product is performed using fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET).

35. (Currently amended) A method of determining whether a human individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* said method comprising the steps of:

(i) subjecting a biological sample obtained from said human individual to nucleic acid sequence amplification using primers comprising a nucleotide sequences selected from the group ~~selected from the group~~ consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2, to produce a porA *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* amplification product from a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* porA nucleic acid if present in said biological sample; and

(ii) detecting said amplification product, if present, by probe hybridization and fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) using oligonucleotides comprising the nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO**[[#]]** **:3** having a donor fluorophore and SEQ ID NO:4 having an acceptor fluorophore, whereby a presence of said porA amplification product indicates that said individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

36-47. (Canceled).

48. (Currently amended) A method of determining whether an individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, said method including the step of detecting an isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, if present in a biological sample obtained from said individual, wherein the presence of said isolated porA nucleic acid indicates that said individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, wherein said isolated porA

nucleic acid **[[is]]** **comprises the nucleotide sequence of** an amplification product obtainable by nucleic acid sequence amplification using PCR primers having a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, further including the step of using one or more oligonucleotide probes for detecting said amplification product by probe hybridization, wherein the probe comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

50. (Canceled).

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein detection of said amplification product is performed using fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET).

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, including the step of subjecting the amplification product to nucleotide sequencing.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, including the step of subjecting the amplification product to nucleotide sequencing.